

Festivals

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF THE VIRGIN OF LAS NIEVES

On the 5th August the main festival in the Town takes place in honour of Our Lady of Las Nieves, whose image is found at the hermitage located down at the Puerto de Las Nieves. This image is kept there all year, except on the days running from the 5th to the 17th of August when it stays at the Parish of Our Lady of the Conception, in the town centre. On the 4th August the most popular festival procession of the fiestas is held, the Bajada de la Rama, in which thousands dance to the rhythms of one of the two local bands, from the starting point in the middle of the village, making their way up to the top to collect tree branches, and dance their way back down to the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Las Nieves. The procession is led by oversized papagüevos heads made from cardboard which represent some of the most popular characters of the village, and which make their way through the crowds by pushing people out of the way with their large hands. This Festival was declared of National Tourism Interest in 1972.

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SAINT PETER

This takes place on 29th June at the Parish of San Pedro in the Valley of Agaete. Most noteworthy here is their own Bajada de la Rama, in which pilgrims climb up to Pinar de Tamadaba on the night of the 27th to cut off branches and bring them back down at sunrise to then dance with them through the San Pedro area, finally offering them up to the Saint, except for branches of pennyroyal and thyme, which are kept in houses to stave off colds and influenza.

PATRON SAINT OF THE TOWN

Virgin of the Immaculate Conception, on the 8th December.



La Bajada de la Rama.

AGAETE



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MUNICIPALITIES OF GRAN CANARIA



Cuisine



TYPICAL PRODUCTS FROM THE MUNICIPALITY

Coffee
Oranges and tropical fruits
Fish, cheese

Typical Recipe

Fish Broth



INGREDIENTES

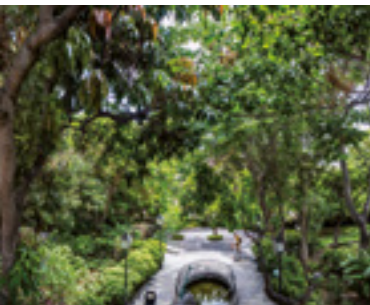
1kg. of fish (normally sama)
½ kg. of potatoes
1 onion
1 tomato
3 cloves of garlic
Cumin, salt, oil
Paprika, saffron, coriander
Mint and pepper

PREPARATION

In a large pot with water, salt and a splash of olive oil, we add the tomato, pepper, onion and potatoes, all whole, and then we add the paprika, saffron, coriander, mint, cumin and garlic cloves. This is then all put on to heat. At boiling point we add the fish and let it all cook through until the potatoes are done.



The fishing town of Agaete is found to the northwest of Gran Canaria, just 30km from the island's capital city, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.



Huerto de las Flores.

Did you know?

The famous British traveler Olivia Stone came to visit the Huerto de las Flores when it was still the property of the Armas family, and commented on the gardens: "...The garden was actually a jungle of lush vegetation..." (Extract from her book "Tenerife and its six Satellites"). Famous British writer Agatha Christie also dropped by Agaete on her trip to Gran Canaria and gives mention to the Puerto de Las Nieves in one of her books.

Agaete looks out over the Atlantic Ocean and offers visitors the contrast of unique landscapes, ranging from the impressive cliffs that rise up from the sea at Puerto de Las Nieves, to Pinar de Tamadaba some 1000 metres above sea level near to the centre of the island.

El Puerto de Las Nieves is the ideal place for bathing in the Atlantic Ocean's clear waters, as well as diving underwater to admire its virgin sea beds in the diverse bathing areas along the coastline, at **Las Nieves Beach** and **Natural Swimming Pools**. It is also without doubt the fishing activity in the area, which conserves its traditional and artisanal style to this day, that makes the area stand out, supplying such goods as fresh fish which has led to the development of its fishing cuisine, truly unique and cherished on the island. The great variety of restaurants, together with the hotels and rural house accommodation available, make this enclave an ideal place in which to spend a few days to relax and rest.

Agaete also has a rich **Historical and Artistic Heritage**, in which the **Hermitage of Our Lady of Las Nieves**



Hermitage of Our Lady of Las Nieves.

is an outstanding example with its Mudejar coffered polychrome ceiling, as well as the homonymous Flamenco Tryptich attributed to Joos Van Cleve, an artistic gem from the 16th century.

On our walk up to the Town Centre we come across the **Church of the Immaculate Conception**, the present-day temple dating back to 1874. Agaete is fundamentally renowned regionally, nationally and even internationally for its popular festival, the **Bajada de la Rama**. This fiesta is a clear reflection of the happy go lucky and partying spirit of the people from the municipal area, and is celebrated on 4th of August each year. Its most characteristic elements can be savoured all year round at the **Rama Museum**, located close by, down one side of Agaete's afore-mentioned main church. Within the picturesque town centre and walking along the village's main La Concepción street, a sign-post invites us to visit the **Huerto de las Flores Botanical Garden**, a park that emerged in the 19th century thanks to the efforts of the Armas family, the former owners of the land there, when they started planting seeds from all over the world, especially America, creating a tropical garden with



Barranco de Guayedra.

over 100 tropical species which have acclimatized perfectly to the area.

Right in the middle of town there are some fine buildings dating from the 19th century, such as the **Cultural Centre** and the current Town Hall, which in their day were large town houses belonging to the Canary upper classes, with their traditional Canary architecture, lending them a typical island flavour.

Leaving the town centre behind and following signs for the **Valley of Agaete**, we must make a stop at the **Maipés Archaeological Park of Agaete**, one of the most important aboriginal necropoli



Las Nieves beach.



Valley of Agaete.

How to Get There

BY BUS FROM LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA
Service 103

FROM LA ALDEA DE SAN NICOLÁS
Service 101

in Gran Canaria, in which more than 600 burial mounds have been found and which has been declared a Historic Artistic Monument.

The Valley of Agaete may be the only place in Spain and Europe in which coffee cultivation has a certain entity; although its production is small, it has a special quality: "It is high quality. It has got a good yellow greeny colour. It has an aroma of green fruit. When toasted, it develops and expands well. The resulting drink has a sweet, fruity flavour

reminiscent of chocolate or liquorice. It has low acidity and an acceptable body", concluded Mr. Albert Solá i Trill, who, in his capacity as coffee expert in the Barcelona Coffee Forum, went around the world studying and trying out different coffees, and dropped into Agaete to take a sample with him for analysis.

Following on along the road leading to the Valley of Agaete, we can marvel at the beauty of its countryside, with parallel views of **Tamadaba Heights** with their lush pine trees. The **Macizo de Tamadaba** and **Altavista** make up one of



Puerto de Las Nieves.

the two Natural Parks of Gran Canaria. Access to them from Agaete can only be gained on foot along diverse pathways that cross this Valley and which lead us through beautiful spots in the mountains surrounding this area of Gran Canaria.

The Valley of Agaete stands out for its unique orange trees, tropical fruits and coffee land-holdings, in which over recent years its Wine from Los Berrazales has come to the fore, made in its wine vaults of the same name located within a wine, orange, coffee and tropical fruit land-holding.